

**AGENDA ITEM VIII A**

**TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION  
FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

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#### **REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

##### **STAFF COMMENTS**

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence held its last meeting for 2003-2004 on May 13, 2004 at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, LA. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain final input from Blue Ribbon Commission members pertaining to specific topics that the Commission wished to address during 2004-2005. Dr. George Noell, a researcher from Louisiana State University, assisted Commission members in understanding how value-added models are being used in other states to examine the growth of learning of K-12 students when taught by teachers. Dr. Bobby Franklin with the Louisiana Department of Education presented current achievement data for students in Louisiana on norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests. Louisiana Department of Education, university personnel, and school personnel presented data regarding the effectiveness of four programs being implemented in the state to improve student learning. One of the four programs highlighted Louisiana State University at Shreveport's highly effective professional development school.

Regents Frances Henry, Dr. Jeanne Burns, and seven other university, state, and district representatives will be attending the Education Trust's annual summer meeting in Chicago, Illinois during July to plan the Blue Ribbon Commission's activities for 2004-2005. Dr. Jeanne Burns has served as a member of a four member team from Louisiana who has visited high performing high schools in rural and urban settings in North Carolina, Mississippi, Maine, and New York. Louisiana, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Alabama were selected as five states to work with the Southern Regional Education Board and Southern Governors' Association for a Gates Foundation Grant to identify promising practices in effective high schools in rural and urban settings. Dr. Burns will be communicating information gathered from the trips when working with the Blue Ribbon Commission during 2004-2005.

Dr. Jeanne Burns has also been invited to speak at three state and national meetings pertaining to the work of the Board of Regents and Blue Ribbon Commission with the redesign of teacher preparation programs in Louisiana. Dr. Burns will be the keynote speaker at the annual Texas A&M Chancellor's Conference in Houston, Texas on June 24, 2004; she will speak at the Education Trust Summer Meeting in Chicago, Illinois on July 23, 2004; and she will speak at the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) meeting on August 11, 2004 in Philadelphia, PA.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII B**

**TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

**EVALUATION OF REDESIGNED INITIAL TEACHER  
PREPARATION PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE  
PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND  
EDUCATIONAL LEADERS**

## **AGENDA ITEM VIII B**

### **TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

#### **EVALUATION OF REDESIGNED INITIAL TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS**

##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

During the last four years, public and private universities in Louisiana have redesigned all undergraduate and alternate certification teacher preparation programs for grades PK-3, 1-5, 4-8, and 6-12. All programs have been evaluated by external evaluators and approved by the Board of Regents and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. These programs are now being implemented at all public and private universities in Louisiana.

As part of the redesign process, all universities have also been required to redesign all programs that certify teachers in grades K-12 in the areas of art, music, dance, foreign languages, and health/physical education. In addition, all campuses have been required to redesign all graduate programs for teachers and educational leaders to ensure that all graduate programs are advanced programs that extend learning beyond the redesigned undergraduate programs. Due to the fact that new certification requirements had not yet been approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for the grades K-12 programs and add-on certifications, it was not possible for campuses to redesign the K-12 and graduate programs at the same time as the undergraduate programs. During 2003-2004, all public and private universities were provided Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITAL) subgrant funds and carryover Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement State grant funds to help facilitate the redesign of all K-12 and graduate programs.

All campuses were provided the following three dates to submit their redesigned programs for evaluation by external evaluators: February 18, 2004, September 17, 2004, and February 18, 2005. The following four institutions submitted K-12 and/or graduate programs for review by the external evaluators: Louisiana Tech University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of Louisiana at Monroe, and Xavier University. In addition, Louisiana College submitted a Master of Arts in Teaching degree program.

##### **STAFF COMMENTS**

The BoR/BESE/LAICU Program Review Committee met on June 18, 2004 to review a rejoinder that was submitted by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for their K-12 programs. It was determined that a few minor items still needed to be addressed; however, the programs should be recommended

for approval. The committee also reviewed grades 6-12 social studies programs that included 50 credit hours of coursework and determined that the programs at the following institutions met all state requirements for certification: Centenary College, Dillard University, Louisiana Tech University, Southern University and A&M College, Southern University at New Orleans, and Xavier University. Formal approval by the Board of Regents is not required for these programs.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the Grades K-12 baccalaureate (CIP Code 13.1314 - B.S. in Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology-Grades 1-12; CIP Code 13.1302 - B.A. in Art Education-Grades 1-12; and CIP Code 13.1312 - B.M.E. in Music Education-Grades 1-12) and alternate certification programs in health and physical education, art, and music at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.**